

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

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COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-02

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TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 195

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US IC

SUBJ: ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS

ON SECURITY LOS ISSUES

1. AMBASSADOR SCALI ENTERTAINED PRIME MINISTER GEIR HALLGRIMSSON AT WORKING LUNCH, WALDORF TOWERS, JANUARY 20 SENIOR MEMBERS US AND ICELANDIC UN DELEGATIONS AND AMBASSADOR (TO US) KROYER AND (TO UN) INGAVARSSON ALSO ATTENDED, ALONG WITH BENNETT, FERGUSON AND WHITE ON OUR SIDE.

UNDER SECRETARY SISCO PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY BAD FLYING WEATHER. SCALI AND STAFF BRIEFED HALLGRIMSSON ON US POSITIONS ON LAW OF THE SEA, WORLD FOOD AND ENERGY SITUATION, PROBLEMS POSED BY LDC MAJORITY VOTING AT UNGA, WITH CONSEQUENT EFFECT ON US SUPPORT FOR UN AS A RESULT OF PUBLIC DISENCHANTMENT.

2. IN DISCUSSING LOS, SCALI AND LEGAL ADVISOR HERBERT REIS NOTED GROWING CONVERGENCE OF US AND ICELANDIC VIEWS ON 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, WHICH NOW DIFFER ONLY IN DETAIL, SUCH AS TYPE
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OF FISHERIES RESOURCES MANAGEMENT. HALLGRIMSSON SAID ICELANDERS

FEARFUL THAT NEXT LOS CONFERENCE WILL NOT PRODUCE DECISION ON ECONOMIC ZONE, WHICH IS LIFE AND DEATH MATTER TO ICELAND. HIS GOVERNMENT IS IRREVOCABLY COMMITTED TO UNILATERAL EXTENSION OF FISHERIES LIMIT TO 200 MILES BEFORE END OF 1975. HALLGRIMSSON ASKED FOR US SUPPORT FOR THIS DECISION. REIS SAID THAT WHILE WE AGREED ON DESIRABILITY OF 200-MILE ZONE, WE COULD NOT ACCEPT PIECemeal SOLUTION AT LOS CONFERENCE WITHOUT OBTAINING AGREEMENT ON TRANSMIT IN, OVER, AND UNDER STRAITS AS WELL AS EQUAL RIGHTS TO SEA-BED EXPLOITATION WITH APPROPRIATE INVESTMENT GUARANTEES. SCALI SAID HE HOPED THAT ICELAND, AS COUNTRY EXPERIENCED IN SECURITY ASPECTS OF LOS, WOULD SUPPORT US ON TRANSIT ISSUE. HALLGRIMSSON SAID ICELAND COULD SHARE US VIEWS ON STRAITS.

3. HALLGRIMSSON SPOKE WARMLY OF SCALI'S DECEMBER 6 SPEECH TO UNGA, WHICH HE SAID FOUND SYMPATHETIC ECHO IN ICELAND. SCALI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ICELANDIC VOTING RECORD AT UNGA, WHICH TRACKED VERY CLOSELY WITH OUR OWN, AND FOR PRIME MINISTER'S ROLE IN REACHING AGREEMENT FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF NATO BASE IN ICELAND. HALLGRIMSSON, STOPPING OVER ON WAY TO WINNIPEG FOR CELEBRATION OF HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF ICELANDIC EMIGRATION TO CANADA, EXPRESSED WARM GRATITUDE FOR COURTESIES SHOWN HIM IN NEW YORK. NOTED IN TOAST THAT DESPITE OVERWHELMING DIFFERENCE IN SIZE, US HAD ALWAYS TREATED ICELAND AS EQUAL PARTNER. (HE WILL SEE TRUDEAU LATER IN WEEK.)

BENNETT

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